

**Delaware Harness Racing Commission**  
**Rules Committee Meeting**  
**January 8, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.**

Delaware Department of Agriculture – Conference Room 2  
Dover, DE

In Attendance:

Mark Davis, Executive Director	Beth Steele, DHRC Chairman
Andrew Kerber, DAG	George Staats, Commissioner

Dover Downs Vice President of Racing Charles Lockhart, Sr., Dover Downs Sr. Director of Racing John Hensley, Harrington Raceway General Manager Jim Boese, Harrington Raceway Asst. GM Matt Sparacino, Harrington Facilities Manager Karen Kraft, DSOA Executive Director Sal DiMario and DSBF Executive Administrator Judy Davis-Wilson.

*Minutes: Donna Krol*

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 9:10 a.m. Chairman Steele called the rules committee meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the 6-26-18 Rules meeting were reviewed. Chairman Steele entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made by Mark Davis and seconded by John Hensley. Motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

**Discussion Items:**

1. **Outrider at Delaware Harness Tracks Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway:**

Mark Davis opened up the discussion stating that both he and Beth Steele have received complaints regarding the issue of no outrider present at the Dover Downs and Harrington meets. Both tracks along with Sal DiMario have been actively searching for an Outrider. So far the possible candidates have not been qualified or able to work the racing schedule. Charles Lockhart stated that there are no established qualification credentials or training standard requirements for an Outrider position. He is concerned with the liability issue. He further stated, "There should be some sort of licensing procedure that the Outrider must complete." The position requires a well trained and experienced horseman along with a trained and experienced horse. Also, if the tracks are paying for the Outrider their job responsibilities should not include "ponying" horses on the track for the trainers.

Sal DiMario suggested the tracks try a different approach since they have had no luck so far. Advertise in the USTA website. Perhaps reviewing horse care cost and hauling expenses needs to be taken into consideration when deciding pay for the Outrider. Also offering the position at both tracks enhances the employment. Having no outrider is a safety issue. We need a "pool" of qualified people to be outriders.

Karen Craft is in touch with the Equine Coach from the Delaware State University. She may have applicants that are qualified and interested. Judy Davis Wilson suggested that we get in touch with the local Rodeo people.

After discussion was heard, it was decided for the tracks to keep looking and working together.

## 2. DHRC Rule 8.3.5.9.4.2 – Changes proposed by Sal DiMario

8.3.5.9.4.2 2nd time within 365 day period - the horse must serve a 30 day(s) suspension from racing, provided that the horse must be added to or remain on the Bleeder List, **and must complete a satisfactory qualifying race before resuming racing**, after the mandatory 30-day rest period; after 365 days without another incident of EIPH all horses revert back to a first time bleeder status;

Sal DiMario proposes striking the above in red from rule 8.3.5.9.4.2. According to Sal DiMario this causes a burden on the horseman and the 30 days can turn in to 40 depending on where in the week the horse comes off the rest period.

Charles Lockhart stated that the betting public needs to see the horse requalify in order to bet effectively on its performance. He suggested leaving the rule alone since it does not effect a lot of horses/trainers. The DHRC veterinarians submitted a letter stating their objection the proposed rule amendment. Chairman Steele suggested we monitor the situation to see exactly how many horses this does effect and how often.

Sal DiMario would like to table this to a future Rules Meeting. He wants to bring in trainers to speak about the proposed rule change. Mark Davis would also like the DHRC Vets to be at the meeting as well.

***Next Rules Meeting 3-5-19, time 11:00am (Sal DiMario will confirm time).***

### **Public Comment:**

Rules Committee Meetings are considered Public Meetings and will follow the same guidelines as public meetings including: agenda posted on State Calendar, minutes taken during the meeting, approved at the next Rules Meeting and posted on State Calendar.

### **CLOSE OF MEETING:**

With no further business to discuss Chairman Steele entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was carried by Matt Sparacino and seconded by Karen Craft. Motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.